

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

September 26, 2006

The Department of Children and Family Services is acting in a proactive way to engage families, in close coordination with DPSS and DMH, to help families transition out of Skid Row to a more stable and safe place for their children.

So far, this team has positively impacted the lives of 400 families since January 2006.

The staff request from DCFS that is before us will take this effort several steps further, by providing case monitors that will continue to monitor the agencies that will serve these families after they leave Skid Row and begin the road back to normalcy. Having child protective services in the lead may not be the perfect solution. But to have children living in such terrible conditions, when we have significant resources at our disposal to proactively engage these families and assist them is something that we cannot deny.

I believe that we must continue to support DCFS and the other County Departments efforts to mitigate the serious problems on Skid Row. However, keeping in mind the valid issues raised about the precedent set here and about DCFS stepping beyond its

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core mission. I suggest that we approve the Department's request temporarily, review the outcomes and results they are having and then make the decision as to whether or not to make these items permanent.

I, THEREFORE MOVE, that the Board approve the 11 positions DCFS is requesting to enhance their Skid Row services as temporary items, and instruct the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services, in consultation with DPSS and DMH, to report back to the Board in 30 days to provide projections and performance goals as to the number of families that they will be seeing in the next twelve months, as well as a means to measure the success of their efforts.

I, FURTHER MOVE, that they report back in twelve months with an overall assessment of the impact the Skid Row Outreach team is having, specifically in terms of improving outcomes for children and families, and make a recommendation as to whether or not the temporary items should become permanent.

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